

March 15, 2005

The Honorable Leon Drolet
State Representative
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Drolet & Committee Members:

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of HB 4433. Citizens for Traditional Values supports your efforts on this legislation, attempting to make legal the display of the 10 Commandments in the public arena.

The 10 Commandments are an important part of our foundational bedrock as a nation. Most importantly they are a visual reminder of moral standards. The commandments written on this display make up the moral firmament of society (do not kill, do not covet, do not lie . . .). To minimize the importance of the display of the 10 Commandments in the public arena, sends the non-verbal message to this generation and the following that its rules no longer matter – not only in the eye of the public, but on a personal basis as well. Without guidelines, our stature as a nation will perish.

The display of these 10 Commandments in the public arena is something 75% of Michigan residents support.

Most importantly, for courts to take away our freedom to display the 10 Commandments, impends upon our 1st Amendment rights of free speech and 'the free exercise of religion'.

Again, thank you for your work on behalf of our freedoms. Please keep our organization posted on how we can be of service to you in this endeavor.

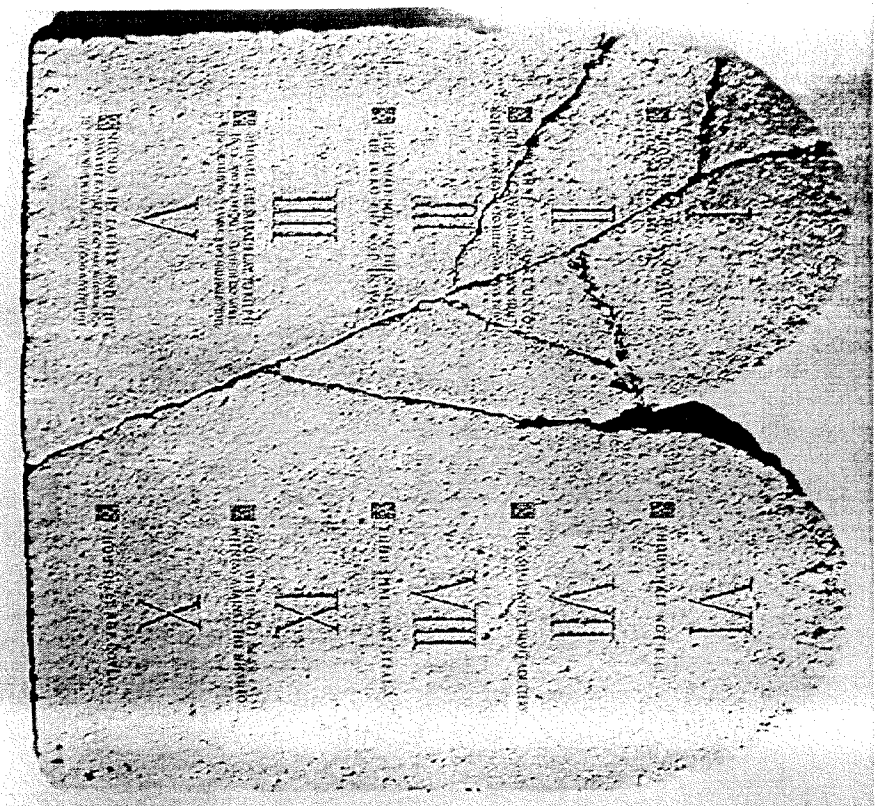
Sincerely,

Harold J. Voorhees
Director of Public Relations

Amy J. Hawkins
Political Director

HOUSE BILL 4433

SPONSORED BY REPRESENTATIVE TOM CASPERSON



HOUSE BILL 4433 PROVIDES:

- ❖ A document or other object that contains the Ten Commandments may be displayed on public property if all of the following circumstances exist:
- A. It is displayed with other documents, public records, or objects of historical significance that have formed and influenced the legal or governmental system of the United States.
- B. (b) It is displayed in the same manner as other documents, public records, or objects that are displayed at the same time and location.
- C. (c) The display does not focus more attention on it than another documents, public records, or other objects that are displayed at the same time and location.

PURPOSE OF HOUSE BILL 4433

By displaying the Ten Commandments as provided by House Bill 4433, Michigan is acknowledging a part of the moral and historical foundation of our Country and our great State.

HISTORICAL REFERENCES

Our storied history provides countless examples of role of the historical role of faith, a cornerstone of which is the universal and traditional authority embodied by the Ten Commandments.

THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT

The Pilgrims landing at
Plymouth Rock in 1620 each
signed the *Mayflower Compact*,
which declared that they had
“undertaken for the Glory of
God and Advancement of the
Christian Faith, and the Honour
of our King and Country, a
voyage to plant the first colony
in the northern Parts Of
Virginia.”



THE FUNDAMENTAL ORDERS OF CONNECTICUT OF 1639

In the *Fundamental Orders of Connecticut*, which was the first permanent governing document of that colony and a forerunner of several colonial constitutions, the people stated that they desired “an orderly and decent Government established according to God, to order and dispose of the affairs of the people at all seasons as occasion shall require.”

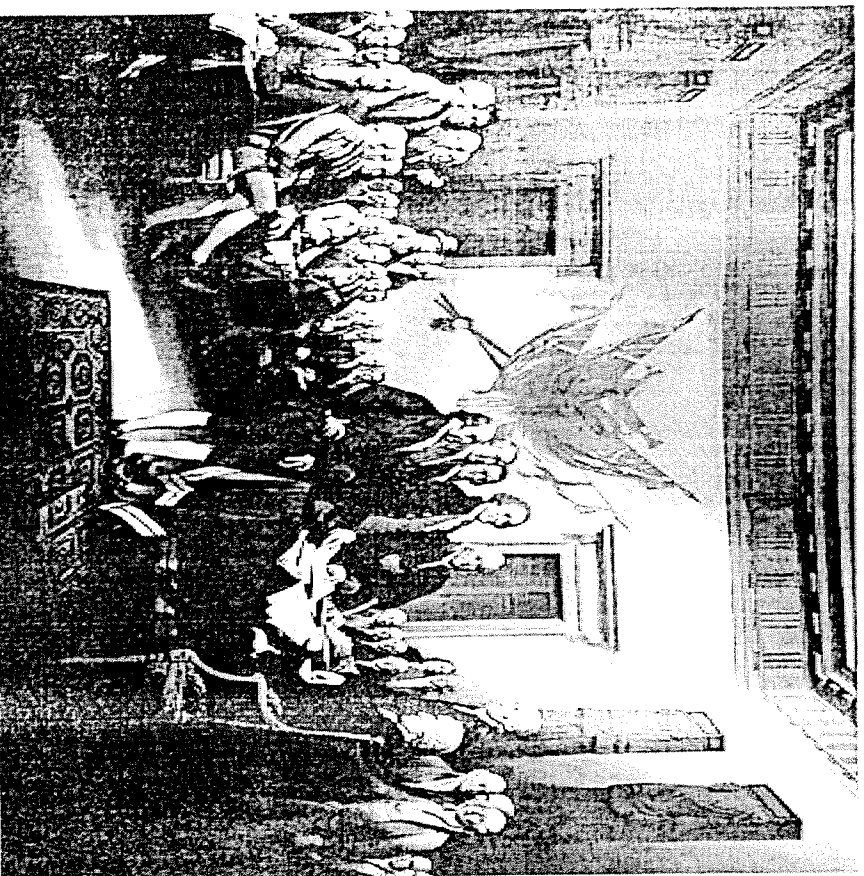
THE NORTHWEST ORDINANCE

- ❖ The Northwest Ordinance, written in 1787, was reenacted by the First Congress in 1789 and, like the Declaration of Independence, is considered to be part of this nation's organic law.
- ❖ It declared that, "Religion, morality, and knowledge [are] necessary to good government."

Declaration of Independence

July 4, 1776

Unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America



In the most well known of the four references to God in the Declaration of Independence, the Founders stated that, “we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their *Creator* with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

THOMAS JEFFERSON



The primary author of
the Declaration of
Independence
observed that, “No
nation has ever existed
or been governed
without religion. Nor
can be.”

JAMIES MADISON

The Chief architect of the
Constitution said of its

construction, in talking about the
prescription for success, stated:

“We have stalked the future of
American civilization, not upon the
power of government. Far from it.
We have stalked the future of all
our political institutions upon the
capacity of each and all of us to
govern ourselves, to sustain
ourselves, according to the Ten
Commandments of God.”



GEORGE WASHINGTON



Our first President declared that “While just government protects all in their religious rights, true religion affords to government its surest support.”

PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS



Our second President is quoted as saying:

❖ “[W]e have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. . . . Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

❖ The law given from Sinai was a civil and municipal as well as a moral and religious code; it contained many statutes . . . of universal application – laws essential to the existence of men in society, and most of which have been enacted by every nation which every professed any code of laws . . . Vain, indeed, would be the search among the search among the writings of profane antiquity . . . to find so broad, so complete and so solid a basis for morality as the Decalogue lays down.”

FEDERALIST PAPER NUMBER 37

Federalist Number 37, which was one of a series of documents written to persuade the voters of New York and others states of the importance of ratifying the Constitution, declares that those who participated in the Constitutional Convention of 1787 had

“surmounted with an unanimity almost unprecedented” “so many difficulties” that “[i]t is impossible, for the man of pious reflection, not to perceive in it a finger of that Almighty Hand, which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical stages of the revolution.”

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



Benjamin Franklin, the oldest member of the Constitutional Convention, during a particularly intense deadlock, reminded the delegates of God's sovereign protection, stated, "In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible with danger, we had daily prayers in this room for divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in that struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our Favor.

1853 SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE REPORT

In a report concerning the constitutionality of the maintaining a Congressional chaplain, the United States Congress, through the Senate Judiciary Committee, stated:

“[The Founders] had no fear or jealousy of religion itself, nor did they wish to see us an irreligious people; they did not intend to prohibit a just expression of religious devotion by the legislators of the nation, even in their public character as legislators; they did not intend to spread over all the public authorities and the whole public action of the nation the dead and revolting spectacle of atheistical apathy.”

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

PRESIDENT DWIGHT EISENHOWER



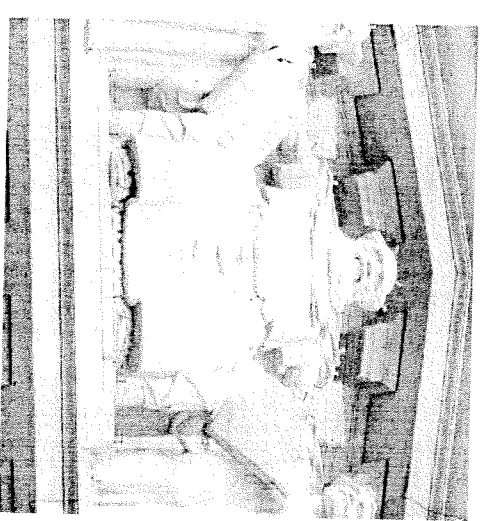
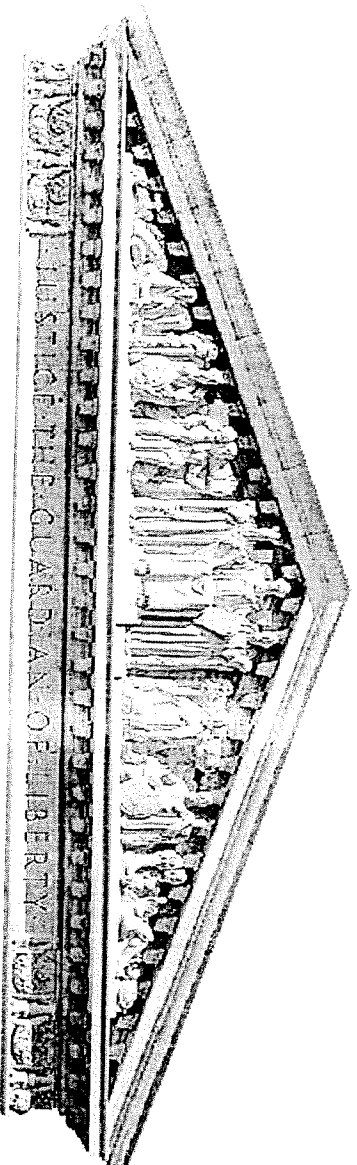
In a speech on June 14, 1954, President Eisenhower explained that the words “under God” were added to the Pledge of Allegiance to “reaffirm the transcendence of religious faith in America’s heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country’s most powerful resource in peace and war.”

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The words “under God” were added to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954. The report from the House of Representatives that

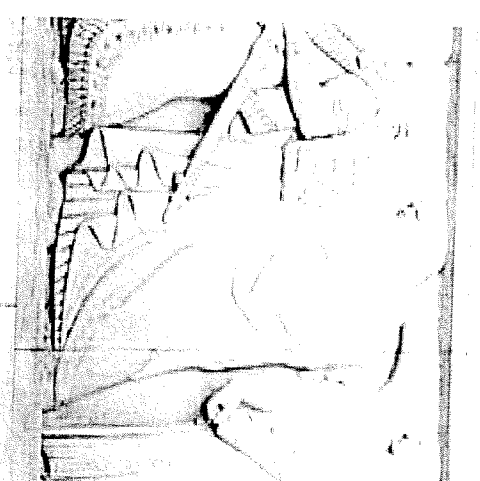
accompanied the legislation observed that, “[f]rom the time of our earliest history our peoples and our institutions have reflected the traditional concept that our Nation was founded on a fundamental belief in God.”

EASTERN PEDIMENT, U.S. SUPREME COURT



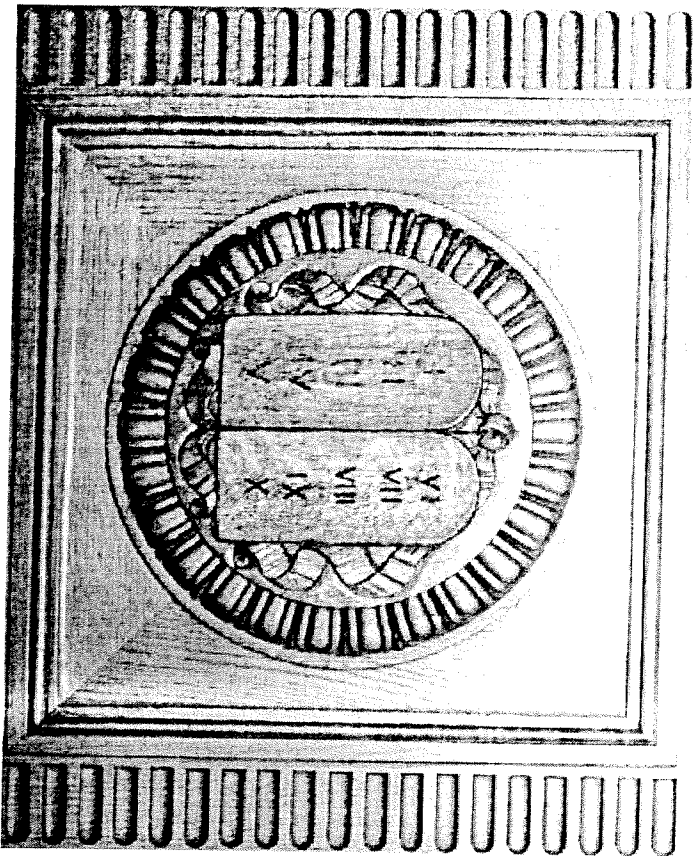
The East Pediment of the Supreme Court showcases the image of Moses bearing the two tablets upon which the 10 Commandments are inscribed. In fact, Moses is front and center and the largest figure in the entire sculpture.

FRIEZE, U.S. SUPREME COURT



Inside the ceremonial courtroom in the Supreme Court, above the bench in two friezes, Moses is shown as one among a procession of 18 significant lawgivers. His tablets partially show the commandments in Hebrew.

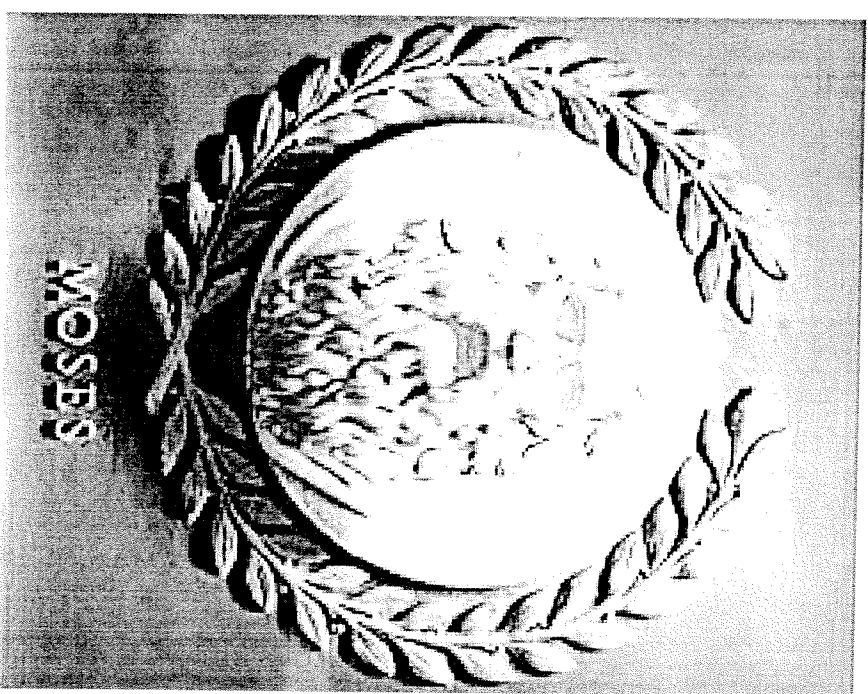
U.S. SUPREME COURT DOORS



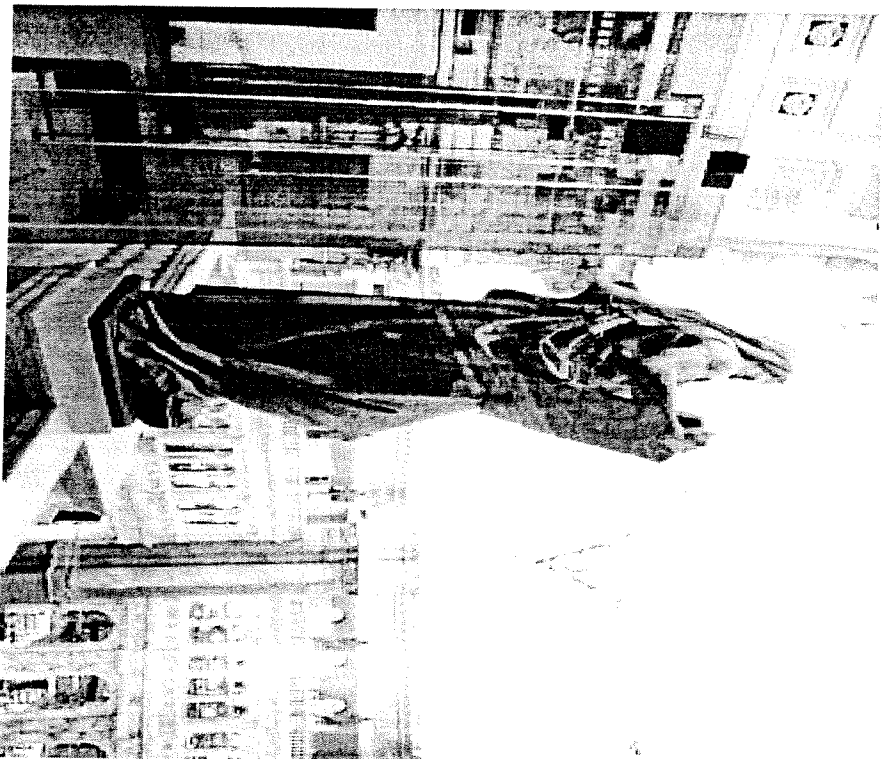
The oak doors to the Supreme Court have the Ten Commandments engraved on the lower portion of each door.

CHAMBER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The upper walls of the House chamber are decorated with 23 marble relief portraits of "noted Lawgivers." Moses' is the only one displayed not by profile, but rather by full face, at the center of the north wall.



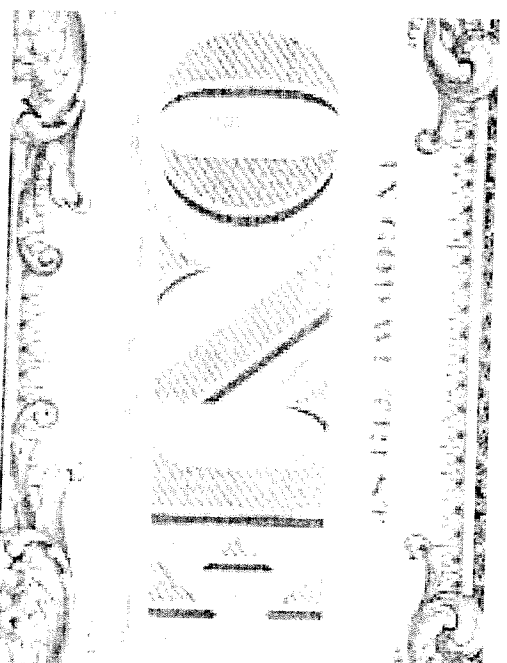
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Moses holding the
Ten Commandments
is also displayed in
the rotunda of the
Library of Congress

U.S. CURRENCY

“In God We Trust” was first placed on the nation’s coinage in 1864 to “express the recognition of the trust of our people in God.” The motto has appeared on all U.S. coins since 1938 and on all currency since 1964.



UNITED STATES CODE

The oaths of judicial office, citizenship, and military and civil service all end with the phrase, “[S]o help me God.”

Preamble, Michigan Constitution

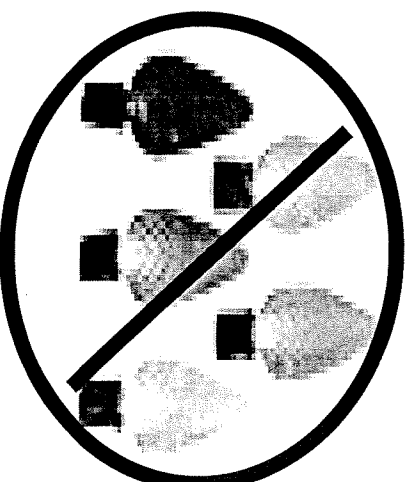
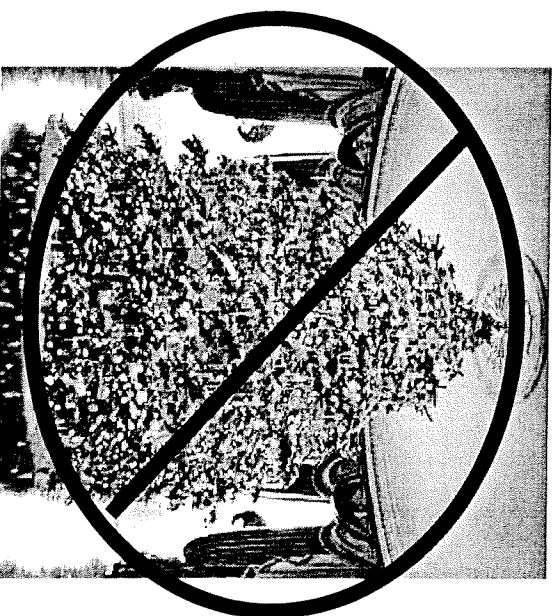
We, the people of the State of Michigan,
grateful to *Almighty God* for the
blessings of freedom, and earnestly
desiring to secure these blessings
undiminished to ourselves and our
posterity, do ordain and establish this
constitution.

CONSEQUENCES

- ❖ If we can not take the simple step of acknowledging and displaying a document that, albeit religious in nature, is of great historical significance to this Country, we have effectively changed the First Amendment's guarantee of Freedom **OF** Religion to a Constitution constraint mandating a Freedom **FROM** Religion.
- ❖ As such, we had better be prepared to:

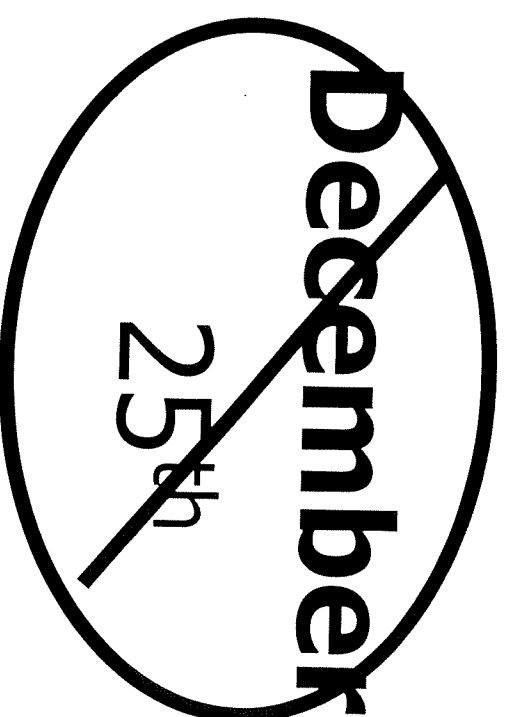
ABOLISH CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS

Although many have tried to rename the Christmas tree and “holiday lights” and “holiday lights,” both have an undeniable historical connection to the celebration of Christmas.



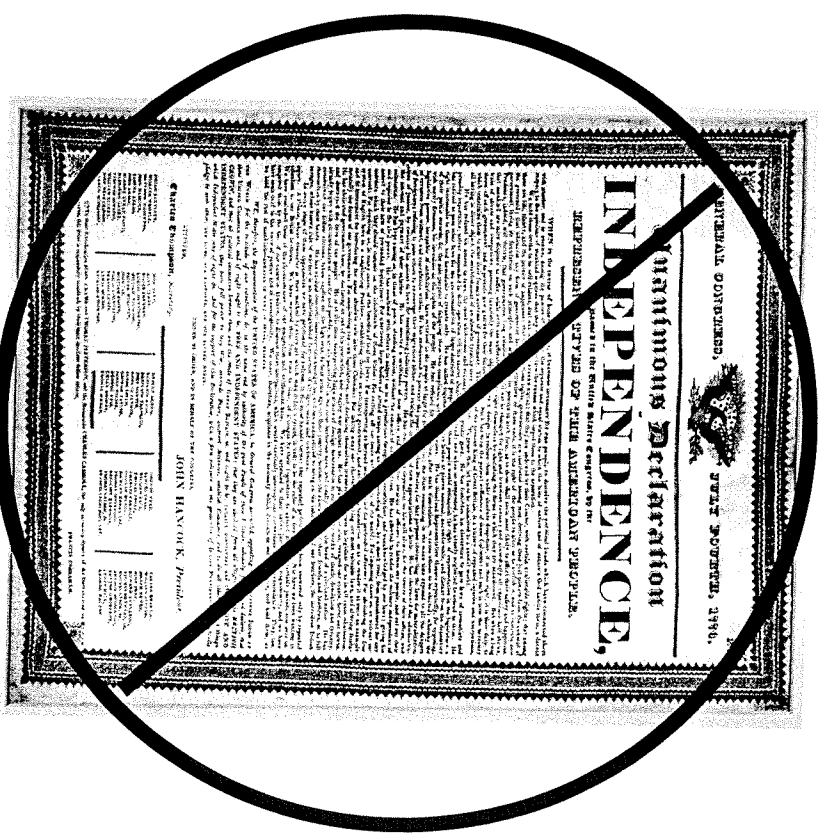
ABOLISH CHRISTMAS AND EASTER BENEFITS

Again, although there has been a movement to rename Christmas and Easter breaks as “Holiday Breaks,” they are both historically tied to religious events, and thus there should be no time off or benefits associated with either holiday.



REWRITE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND OTHER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

- ❖ As established, the Declaration of Independence contains not one, but four references to God, therefore, those references must be redacted.
- ❖ Of course the same goes for the Mayflower Compact, the Northwest Ordinance, and the Federalist Papers.



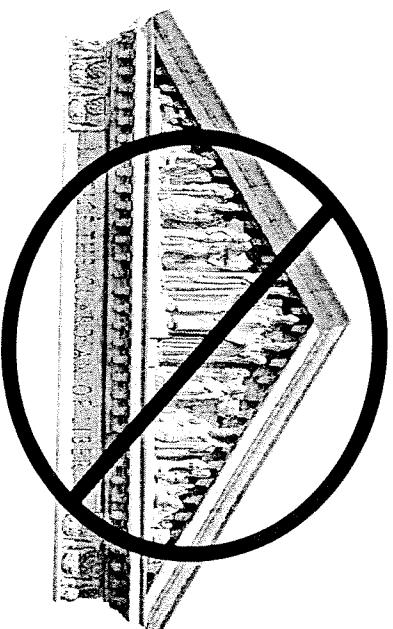
REWRITE OUR STATE CONSTITUTION

Michigan's Constitution
is in obvious violation
with its reference to
"Almighty God."

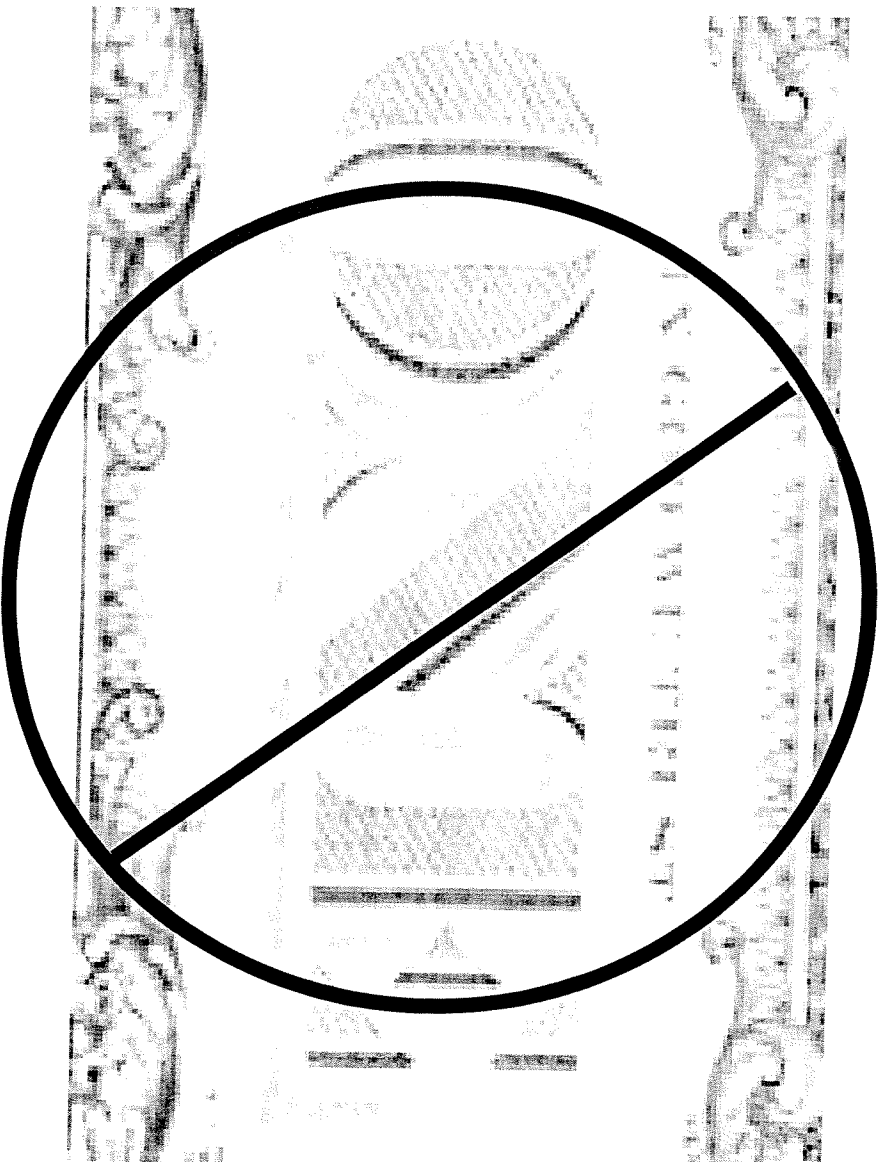


REMOVE HISTORICAL RELIGIOUS REFERENCES FROM BUILDINGS

As previously
mentioned, a
innumerable historical
buildings have religious
references and must be
refinished.

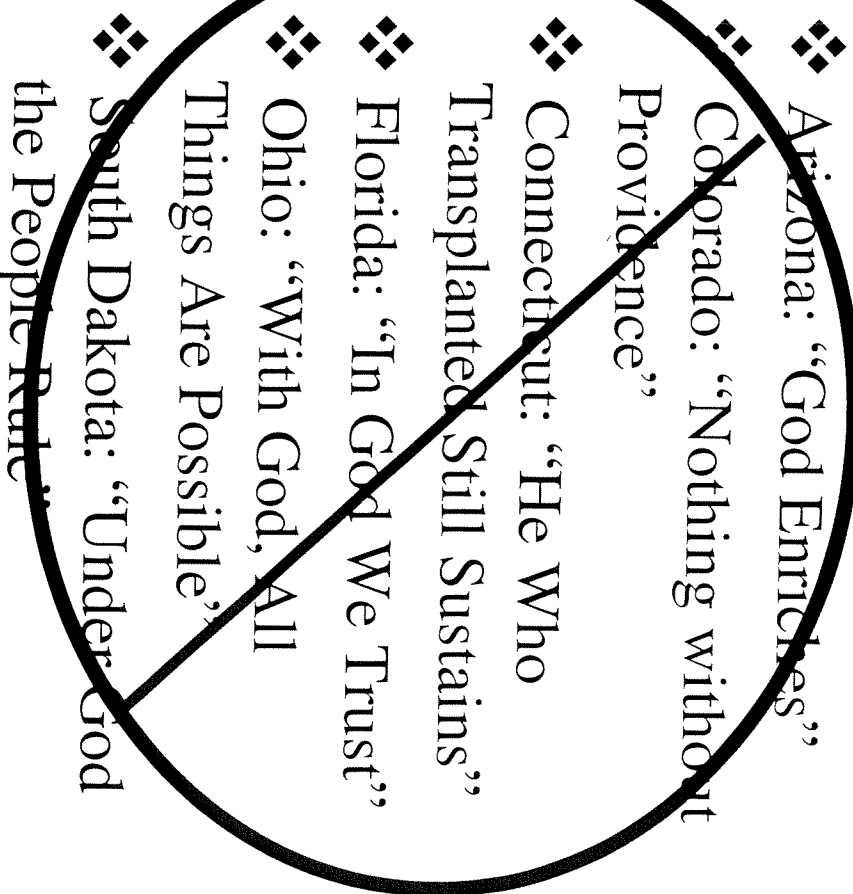


RECLAIM AND REISSUE CURRENCY



SUPPORT AMENDING STATE MOTTOS

We must also urge
our legislative
brothers and sisters
to amend their State
Mottos as no less
than six contain
religious references.

- 
- ❖ Arizona: “God Enriches”
 - ❖ Colorado: “Nothing without Providence”
 - ❖ Connecticut: “He Who Transplanted Still Sustains”
 - ❖ Florida: “In God We Trust”
 - ❖ Ohio: “With God, All Things Are Possible”
 - ❖ South Dakota: “Under God the People Rule”

CENSURE GOVERNOR GRANHOLM

- In her most recent State of the State Address, Governor Granholm made no less than three religious references, including a direct reference to Matthew 25:43

❖ “We’ve cut back on travel, reduced cell phone usage, and God bless our state employees who’ve agreed to work forty hours a week for thirty-eight hours pay. I know you will join with me in honoring them for doing much more with less.

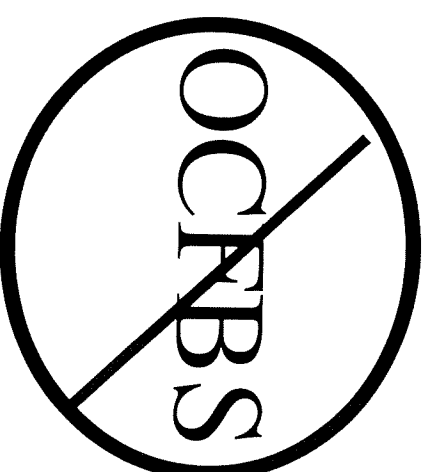
❖ “God bless you all, and God bless Michigan.”

❖ But, there are some here in Lansing and in Washington, who believe that the way to balance budgets is to deny basic health care to these, the most vulnerable members of our community. To them, I say, we will all be asked one day, “When you saw me ill, what did you do?” and the answer will not be acceptable that we did not see, or worse, that we chose not to.

ABOLISH THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND FAITH BASED SERVICES

❖ Just yesterday,
Governor Granholm
announced the
establishment of a faith-
based off office.

❖ In doing so, she
liberally quoted the
Bible, ostensibly
evidencing its religious
nature.



REWRITE OUR HISTORY

~~HISTORY~~

CONCLUSION

To paraphrase Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, it would indeed be ironic if we fail to enact House Bill 4433 out of “respect” to our commitment to religious freedom as we have then severed the very ties to the history and traditions that we developed to honor it.